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MINUTES
CITY OF COVINGTON
ARTS COMMISSION ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT
www.covingtonwa.gov

Saturday, January 18, 2014
10:00 A.M.

Private Residence
18430 SE 279th Place, Covington

CALL TO ORDER

Sandy Bisordi, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:35 am.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sandy Bisordi, Gini Cook, Ed White, Lesli Cohan, Leslie Spero, and Jonathan Combs. Aunna Moriarty was excused.

CITY STAFF PRESENT

Pat Patterson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was approved by all.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made to delay approval of the consent agenda from the December meeting at the February meeting.

CITIZEN/GUEST/STAFF COMMENTS

None

CONTINUED BUSINESS

- **STUDENT ART SHOW:** Sandy recapped the progress that has been made to date and presented the following timeline and Leslie Spero volunteered to help:
 - Art due to City Hall from participating schools by February 6th.
 - Sorting tentatively scheduled for February 18-19th.
 - Hanging to take place February 27th-March 2nd. Rotary has affirmed their willingness to help.
 - Reception on Monday, March 3rd.
- **DISPLAY ARTISTS:** We'll review applicants at the February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Jonathan's term on the Commission expires in May and he announced that he would not be re-applying.
- Projects to keep an eye on for Arts Commission involvement include Jenkins Creek Park Bridge (a Public Works project) and Phase II of the Covington Community Park (2015-16).
- Sandy shared a conversation she had with Scott Thomas during an impromptu encounter around town that we should already be thinking about our next decision card for the 2015 budget; we should know what we want by June 2014.

STRATEGIC RETREAT AGENDA

OPENING REVIEW – KEY TASKS

Ed presented a proposed timeline for the next year (and hinted at the following 2 years) that included installation of the artwork anchoring system at the Aquatic Center and selection of art for that location. First on the list is to gather facts about the plinth (is it hollow? Solid? etc).

It was agreed that we need to keep the decision card process in our thoughts, and that each Commissioner should think about this for the next year's budget, and that it should be discussed regularly, if only briefly, at each of our meetings.

We also touched on the fact that thus far we've been focused on visual art and that we should not lose sight of the performing arts as we move forward.

The discussion on implementing the timeline (including sub-committee make-up and how to divvy up responsibilities for attaining our various goals) touched on communication and PR. The general consensus was that community buy-in for any future project is critical and that a concerted effort needs to be made to get the word about our projects out via The Covington Reporter and possibly small posters in storefronts. It was agreed that coordination with Karla was a must, particularly if we want Arts information shared on the City pages in the Reporter, but it was also suggested we try for an editorial approach. It was also agreed that individual Commissioners should act as point people with the various organizations involved in our proposed projects – such as Planning Commission, Public Works, Parks Commission, Community Development and so on. The intent is to insure that the Arts Commission has plenty of advance knowledge about potential opportunities for involvement while simplifying the other business groups' procedure for sharing that information.

Commissioners volunteered as follows:

Ed White will work on getting the facts together on the Aquatic Center project. He will also work with the Public Works Department and on Public Art.

Lesli Cohan will tackle PR. She will start by drafting a press release for the upcoming student art show.

Gini Cook will work with the Community Development Department and the Planning Commission, with particular emphasis on keeping an eye on the Hawk Property development.

Sandy Bisordi will continue to work on Student Art.
Leslie Spero will work with the Parks and Recreation Department.
Jonathan Combs will work on Public Art.

Discussion then went to formalizing our process for implementing projects. The “Call for Artists” handout from 4 Culture does an excellent job of outlining a process. The group seemed to agree that our future process would evolve out of the manner in which we implement the Aquatic Center project.

Commissioners were given a “homework” assignment to determine their top 10 criteria for choosing a specific public art project. Sandy and Ed handed out a sheet listing some possible criteria to use as a starting point.

CITIZEN/COMMISSIONER/STAFF COMMENTS

None

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

Review the submissions for the rotating exhibit.

GROUP MEMORY

Group Memory was approved by all Commission members.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.